



Radio Stations : **All Community Radio Stations**
Subject : **Early Childhood Development**
Audience : **Parents, caregivers and educators**
Program Topic : **When you have to leave your child with someone (LOVE)**

Guidelines to the presenter

- Presenter – please familiarize yourself with the brief and the use the facts effectively by referring to them from time to time during the show.
- You should be seen as a peer rather than an authority.
- Offer guidance or opinion rather than telling people what to do.
- Encourage people to seek further information
- Always keep the objectives and outcomes in mind and drive these.

Topic:

When you have to leave your child with someone

Objectives:

- To stress parent’s key responsibility in ensuring the safety, protection and care of their young children at all times.
- To inform parents about key issues they need to attend to and ensure when leaving their child with a carer.
- To give parents guidelines on what to expect from a child-minder and child-minding services.
- To give information on relevant requirements of the Children’s Act.

Introduction

The time will come when every mother will have to leave her precious baby, toddler or young children in the care of someone else. That person may be a family member, such as a grandmother, uncle or older brother or sister, a friend or relative, or in cases where mothers need to work, a paid child-minder. As we know, as a parent, the safety, protection, love and care of your baby, toddler or young child is your most important responsibility and consideration. So what do you need to plan for and ensure is in place when you leave your child in someone else's care

Questions	Facts/Information
<p>1. <i>We know that the best environment for a very young baby is at home in the loving care and close physical contact with his mother as she breastfeeds, cuddles, talks and plays with him, baths him and puts him to sleep. So if a mother needs to leave her baby with someone else, what does she need to plan for?</i></p>	<p>If a mother needs to leave her young baby in the care of someone else, it's preferable that person cares for the baby in the baby's home and with the same feeding, bathing and sleeping routine. A mother needs to be absolutely sure that the carer is responsible, attentive and loving towards her baby, and will look after her baby very carefully for the whole time she is away. She needs to explain her baby's routine, feeding practices and hygiene rules, and to ensure that she has left sufficient nappies and sterilized bottles either filled with expressed breast milk or correctly mixed formula.</p>

<p>2. <i>It is quite often reported that young babies are left in the care of older sisters or brothers. Why is this not a good idea?</i></p>	<p>Babies, toddlers and young children should not be left in the care of another child, with no responsible adult around. It is too much responsibility for a child and they cannot be relied upon to give the consistent loving care and practice the necessary hygiene requirements, let alone cope if there is an emergency, such as a fire, the toddler choking on something or falling and hurting herself. There always needs to be a responsible and caring adult in attendance.</p>
<p>3. <i>Why is it so important to ensure the carer follows strict hygiene practices in nappy changes and preparing milk bottles or supplementary food?</i></p>	<p>Babies and young children can get sick easily and quickly, especially if basic hygiene practices are not followed: practices like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sterilizing bottles, teats and dummies in boiling water• hand washing (with soap) after every nappy change, use of the toilet and before preparing food.• Safe disposal of nappies and faeces <p>South African statistics show that diarrhea is a major killer of babies and young children. Young children get very sick very quickly, so if your baby and toddler is vomiting and has a runny tummy, it's important to get to the clinic or hospital quickly. That's another reason why young children need to be looked after by a</p>

<p>4. <i>In many previous programmes we've heard how babies learn from birth and how important it is for mothers to talk, sing, play sound and word games and other play activities during the baby's daily routine. What should mothers expect a carer to do?</i></p> <p>5. <i>If a mother finds such practices taking place, what should she do?</i></p>	<p>responsible adult at all times.</p> <p>As we said just now, the carer should follow as closely as possible what the mother has been doing. So it's very important that the mother ensures that the carer is really interested in her baby, will love and cuddle her, listen and talk to her and give her lots of positive attention and opportunity for play.</p> <p>If you are leaving a toddler, make sure that the carer uses patient, positive discipline, focussing on encouragement and supporting your child to behave in socially acceptable ways. As a mother, you need to discuss the carer's discipline approach and make it quite clear that smacking, hitting and any form of physical punishment is totally unacceptable. Neither is yelling, shouting, threatening or belittling the child acceptable.</p> <p>Immediately find another carer who will provide your child with the loving, safe, protective care he or she needs and has a right to.</p> <p>If the carer is a paid child-minder, you could report her to the social worker in your area,</p>
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	<p>or to the offices of the Department of Social Development. Your municipality may also have a 'Child-minder Policy and Practice Guidelines' and may have officials responsible for monitoring the quality of child-care facilities in its departments. You would need to contact or go and see them.</p>

<p>Conclusion</p>
<p>So using positive discipline fosters the development of self-esteem and self-confidence in your children, and this is done through the way you as the parent behave: being calm, patient and consistent with your young child; setting clear expectations and offering your child choices within boundaries; helping him to name and understand his strong feelings and how to respond appropriately; re-directing her behaviour before it becomes a confrontation and most importantly, spending regular, focussed, quality time with him or her, so that your child can experience your undivided attention</p>

<p>Learning outcomes</p>
<p>After listening to this show the audience should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the difference between positive and negative discipline techniques • Understand that physical punishment or any form of violence against children is both illegal and enormously damaging to the child. • Be aware of how to apply positive discipline techniques • Recognise the importance of spending focussed quality time with each individual child regularly and often.